II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 13, 14, 16 and 18-23, and add new claim 26 as follows as follows.

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior listings, or versions, of claims in the above-captioned application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 have been cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A device disposed to monitor~~for monitoring the~~ water resistance of a case, sealed in a water resistant manner, of an electronic timepiece, the timepiece including a time base for generating a standard frequency signal, ~~and~~ a central processing unit for determining the time from the standard signal, and an electronic means for generating an alarm, wherein the device~~it~~ includes:

an electronic sensor disposed to measure~~capable of measuring~~ fluctuations in a~~the~~ concentration of a gas in ~~the~~ atmosphere contained in the case, wherein~~the~~ results of the measurement carried out by the electronic sensor are~~being~~ processed by the central processing unit and ~~which~~, in response to receiving a~~the~~ measurement signal from the electronic sensor when the case is no longer sealed in a water resistant manner, the electronic means for generating an alarm emits, if necessary, an acoustic warning alarm or a visual warning alarm.

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor includes means for measuring said concentration continuously or intermittently and generating an alarm signal as soon as the sensor~~it~~ detects a fluctuation in the value of the concentration of the gas greater than a predetermined value.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the electronic sensor includes a differential measuring bridge.

16. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 13, wherein an~~the~~ enclosed space is provided with a valve for forcing gas therein.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the sensor includes electrical heating means whose role is to keep a thermally and electrically insulated membrane at a constant temperature.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the water resistance of a case of a timepiece, wherein the method~~it~~ includes the steps of:

–introducing a gas with an initial concentration into ~~the~~ atmosphere contained in the case of the timepiece so that the gas is sealed in the case;

–measuring an~~the~~ initial concentration of the gas;

–continuously or intermittently measuring the concentration of the gas;~~,~~ and

–generating an alarm when the measured concentration of the gas is different from the initial concentration of the~~said~~ gas or when a~~the~~ leak rate exceeds a predetermined value.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein before measuring the concentration of gas, ~~the~~ ambient temperature is measured.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the case is filled with gas by opening the case~~latter~~, filling the case~~it~~ with gas, then sealing the case~~it~~ in a water resistant manner.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein an~~the~~ enclosed space is filled with gas via a valve.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the gas present in the atmosphere of the ~~enclosed~~ case is an inert gas.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the concentration of inert gas in the atmosphere of the ~~enclosed~~ case is greater~~less~~ than the~~its~~ concentration of the inert gas in ~~the~~ ambient air.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the inert gas is carbon dioxide or helium.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the inert gas is carbon dioxide or helium.

26. (NEW) An electronic timepiece, comprising:

(a) a time base for generating a standard frequency signal;

(b) a central processing unit for determining time from the standard signal;

(c) an electronic means for generating an alarm; and

(d) a device disposed to monitor water resistance of a case, sealed in a water resistant manner, of the electronic timepiece, wherein the device includes an electronic sensor disposed to measure fluctuations in a concentration of a gas in atmosphere contained in the case, wherein results of the measurement carried out by the electronic sensor are processed by the central processing unit and, in response to receiving a measurement signal from the electronic sensor when the case is no longer sealed in a water resistant manner, the electronic means for generating an alarm emits, if necessary, an acoustic warning alarm or a visual warning alarm, wherein the electronic timepiece is a watch.